

Biodiversity Gallery, Haldwani

- Uttarakhand state is extremely rich biodiversity as major portion of the state is mountainous and these Himalayan Mountains have wide altitudinal ranges from tropical to alpine meadows which provide the habitat for vast array of floral and faunal species. However the importance of only few species is known to local community from this mass bio- depository.
- In order to fill this gap and to create awareness about these unexplored aspects of biodiversity of Uttarakhand, Research wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department has created a biodiversity gallery in Haldwani, This biodiversity gallery was established under funding from Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA).
- This compilation showcases the importance, ecological role, uses and habitat of 101 such lesser known species displayed in the biodiversity gallery which include species like King Cobra (India's national reptile and world's longest venomous snake), Buransh (largest of all the Rhododendron species in world), Atlas moth (largest moth of India), Himalayan giant honey bee (world's largest honey bee), Gucchi (most expensive edible mushroom of India), Giant Himalayan lily (largest of all lily species), Himalayan langur (only primate species found in the Himalayas), Keedajadi (most expensive fungus of the world), Himalayan Marmot (one of the highest elevation-dwelling mammals in the world), Himalayan Pit viper (venomous snake found at highest altitude), Slaty headed parakeet (only parakeet species which migrates in winter), Great Himalayan Leaf-nosed Bat (India's largest insectivorous bat) etc.
- This compilation will help to create aware about importance of biodiversity and their significance in our ecosystem which will help to build effective and concrete strategies to conserve them, as most of these are facing severe threats due to habitat destruction and human settlements.

Unique Facts about Biodiversity of Uttarakhand

- Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*) -One of the largest terrestrial carnivores, and the largest mammal of the upper Himalayan region
- King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*)- India's national reptile and world's longest venomous snake, its largest population in State is reported in Nainital district, particularly in Bhowali and Manora ranges.
- Corbett Tiger Reserve (having largest population of the tigers for any Tiger Reserve in India
- Buransh (*Rhododendron arboretum*) - largest of all the Rhododendron species in India.
- Royle's Pika (*Ochotona roylei*) -Smallest representatives of the lagomorphs, and also one of the smallest but cutest mammals found in the sub-alpine and alpine regions of Himalaya
- Amesh (*Hippophae salicifolia*)- It is considered richest source of vitamin C, minerals, bioflavonoids, and essential fatty acids.
- Atlas moth (*Attacus atlas*)- It is largest moth of India, it has distinct snake-tipped edges on its wings.
- Boat Orchid (*Cymbidium iridioides*) - Iris Cymbidium, a large sized orchid growing on trees, and sometimes on rocks, is one of the oldest and most popular ornamental orchids.
- Himalayan giant honey bee/ Himalayan cliff honey bee (*Apis laboriosa*)- World's largest honey bee. It creates red honey which is considered to be one of most valuable honey because of its purported medicinal value and intoxicating qualities.
- Satyr tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*)- One of the rarest and most colourful pheasants in Western Himalaya.
- Gucchi (*Morchella esculenta*)- Most expensive edible mushroom of India, and host of nutrients and health benefits

- Takil Palm (*Trachycarpus takil*)- A fan palm endemic to Kumaon Himalaya, it is mainly found in Pithoragarh District, between 1800-2700 m
- Giant Himalayan lily (*Cardiocrinum giganteum*)- It is the largest and most spectacular of Lily species, it is indisputable king of Lily family.
- Golden mahseer (*Tor putitora*)- It is one of the largest species of Mahseer.
- Keedajadi (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*)- It is the most expensive fungus of the world
- Himalayan Griffon Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*)- It is one of the largest and heaviest bird found in the Himalayas
- Golden birdwing Butterfly (*Troides aeacus*)- It is one of the largest butterfly in the state with a wingspan of up to 188mm and found in altitudinal range of 1500-2700 m
- Himalayan pit viper (*Gloydiushimalayanus*)- It is reportedly highest living snake of world, found up to 4900m.
- Himalayan Marmot (*Marmota himalayana*)-Himalayan marmots are one of the highest elevation-dwelling mammals in the world
- Great Himalayan Leaf-nosed Bat (*Hipposideros armiger*)- India's largest insectivorous bat, it has a thickset face and wears a grumpy expression, resembling that of a bull dog
- Yellow-throated marten (*Martes flavigula*)- One of the largest and most ancient martens.

